

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9384

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13098

EXDIS

FOR COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH ARRIGO LEVI, CHIEF EDITOR OF TURIN'S
LA STAMPA

REF: MILAN 1699

1. I RECEIVED A CALL YESTERDAY FROM ARRIGO LEVI, CHIEF EDITOR
OF TURIN'S LA STAMPA, WHO INDICATED HE WAS GOING TO BE IN
WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 11 AND 12 TO ATTEND A USIS SPONSORED
CONFERENCE AT AIRLEY HOUSE. LEVI WILL BE STAYING ON IN
WASHINGTON THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17TH AND REQUESTED AN OPPORTUNITY
TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AND ALSO WITH YOU.

2. I HOPE BOTH YOU AND THE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE THE TIME
TO MEET WITH LEVI. AS YOU KNOW HE IS AN IMPORTANT OPINION
MOLDER HERE IN ITALY, AS WELL AS A FAIRLY REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR
TO NEWSWEEK. HIS PRIVATE AND PUBLIC VIEWS OF LATE REGARDING
THE PCI ARE DISTURBING. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH
AMBASSADOR HINTON, LEVI WAS QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE
"DEMOCRATIZATION" OF THE PCI AND THEIR TOTAL COMMITMENT TO THE
WEST. IN HIS WORDS THEY HAVE "CROSSED THE LINE." EDITORIALY,
SINCE THE JUNE 20TH ELECTIONS, LA STAMPA HAS SHOWN A VERY
OPEN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PCI'S INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE
PARLIAMENT AND THEIR ROLE IN THE GOVERNING PROCESS. IN
YESTERDAY'S LA STAMPA THERE IS A VERY WARM AND ENTHUSIASTIC
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EDITORIAL EMBRACE OF THE NEW COMMUNIST "INDEPENDENT" MAYOR

OF THE CITY OF ROME.

3. I APPRECIATE THAT THERE WILL BE MANY IMPORTANT EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS IN WASHINGTON FOR THE USIS CONFERENCE AND MANY WILL BE REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS WITH THE SECRETARY AND YOU, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY EVERYONE. BECAUSE OF LEVI'S IMPORTANCE HERE IN ITALY AND BECAUSE OF THIS "SOFT" VIEWS OF LATE ON THE PCI, I THINK IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR YOU AND THE SECRETARY TO MAKE THE TIME TO SEE HIM FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWPOINTS AND TO HOPEFULLY REINFORCE HIM BASED ON YOUR THINKING AND CONCERNS REGARDING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS HERE.

4. I WILL BE LEAVING FOR THE STATES ON AUGUST 18TH AND IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE TO GET BACK TO LEVI BEFORE THAT WITH AT LEAST YOUR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO SEE HIM, LEAVING A DEFINITE TIME AND DATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO BE WORKED OUT IN SEPTEMBER WHEN HE ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON.VOLPE

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